

SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION
May 16, 2007

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, Shawn Crawford, Peggy DeBey, Brett Halderman, Randall Hardy, Rachel Loersch, Gayle McMillen, Linda Moore, Cheri Parr, Linda Smith, John K. Vanier II, and Ted Zerger. Staff Present: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Carrie Carpenter, Brigid Hall, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, and Karla Prickett. Also in attendance: Carmen Wilson, League of Women Voters. Absent: Shirley Braxton. Staff absent: Susan Hawksworth.

Smith called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

Festival Part 2

Benson – *Entertainment*: Flyers distributed for In The Loop (AIA project by Brett Maltbie and others). Salina Mass Choir – Combined gospel choir for Sunday morning service at the Festival. Website is fully loaded with information. Benson played clips of music that will be at the Festival including clips (Asleep at the Wheel, The Ditty Bops) and from Children's tent. For children/family entertainment, points particularly to Justin Roberts, Jamie Adkins, I Am Kenny J Productions, StoneLion Puppet Theatre, STAR DRUM (Sunset Elementary School students).

New Food Vendors – Island Noodles, Kettle Ventures, SCOOPS, The Nut Hutte, P & D and Selby Concessions.

Prickett – *Visual Arts*: T-Shirts – women's white and lavender
Regular Men's – gray, brown, white
Tank tops – white
Children's – gray

Prickett presented slides of the Fine Art show and Four River Craft Market.

Also pointed out Al Carr – rocking horse workshop in the Museum 1:30 Thursday before the Festival. Announced participants in the Demo area.

Eighteen Artists-in-Action (AIA) projects this year – several returning but new includes a project on the Journal Bridge – concept model was distributed; high schools students and 2 instructors from McPherson College. A major AIA made of fiber – a functional, safety concept around the pond, thematically connecting people gathering with family, by artist Bill Godfrey, Pennsylvania. Two other new projects: Matt Dehaemers – large spiders; T. J. Tangpuz – animal sanctuary. The AIA's provide local and regional artists the opportunity to work on a manageable and different scale.

Art Car Encore – showed and distributed pictures of art cars, including a truck with comic characters. A total of 20-25 cars will be joining us.

Country Club pre-Festival show – over 30 pieces – up now until the Festival.

Benyshek – asked about children buying art. Hall – artists are invited to participate in *First Treasures* – 7th year, averaging 65 to 75% of artists' participation. Use a "fast pass" system, which allows kids/parents to get an appointment time and come back later.

Parr – how do you match up pieces with number of children? Hall – that is why pieces are asked for ahead of time. Hall has developed a matrix. DeBey – can gift certificates go towards First

Treasures? Hall – no, gift certificates are for Fine Art, Four Rivers and Demo areas. First Treasure pieces are \$5 or below. The program provides growth for the future of the Festival.

DeBey – Why is yoga at 9:00 a.m., when that's opening time? Benson – Yoga is provided in part for vendors; the teacher will wait for the crowd.

Minutes

Benyshek motioned to approve the April 18, 2007 and Loersch seconded. Motion passed.

Staff Reports

Smith – commented positively on the new format (by program development rather than individual staff activity). Noted that the Commission's AIE grant to the Kansas Arts Commission was ranked #2; 13 to 15 grants will be funded \$8000.

Commission Nominating Committee

DeBey – committee will be meeting soon. We will be talking to the Mayor to see how he wants us to proceed. Suggestions for potential new Commissioners (names or comments) should be given to Zerger, Benyshek and DeBey. Bios would be nice.

Horizons

Committee Update – Moore – the Committee is looking at member levels to determine if a change should be made. Crawford detailed a suggested formula for funding process, which hasn't changed since Horizons began 21 years ago. Asked Crawford to come up with a suggested structure different than what we now use. Noted that two-thirds of current members renew this year for the 2008-09-10 cycle; makes this a very important year for Horizons membership. Crawford's suggestions for 3-year membership levels include: special premium level for stake holders \$2,500 – (10 donors given in three years). Moore said that the Committee talked about doing a very special event with "sparkle" – a dance in early November. Highkin – this discussion started when the committee was formed. Committee is looking at possibilities for going away from one level average of \$500; a way to broaden the donor base. Want a broad Commission reaction to trying to create different levels, noting that it's tough for any non profit organization - a worthy cause for the committee. Parr – worthy of looking into. McMillen – gives people an opportunity that they haven't had before. Hardy – Horizons 20 years ago was based on exclusivity: only 50 couples. Once you open it up – broaden the base and people give whatever they want to give – then we're looking for people to be philanthropic. DeBey – pride to belong to it but the members aren't going to the party for its own sake. Moore – are people giving because of parties? Smith – corporate part mixed with the Festival. Highkin – Noted the existence of the Making a Difference (MAD) program. Prickett – it's important to look at funding within historical context; important to involve staff with fundraising. DeBey – make-up of the Committee is important, getting 7 members from Horizons, including 2 members at large. Smith – take information back to the next Horizons meeting. Copies of Crawford's funding level suggestions were distributed. Smith – maybe this is not ready for the renewing process for this year - perhaps worth working towards the 25th year of Horizons.

Developing artists and Artists Award – Benson talked briefly about both grants. Moore – the Committee seeks \$2,500 as budget amendment to do a Horizons Artist Award fall round. Parr - not a budgeted item. Highkin – worthwhile to time it with the Developing Artist grant, so that when artists come to talk with Benson, it offers her another direction in which to send them. Moore – motioned to approve \$2,500 and Crawford seconded. Motion passed.

Final Report

Submitted by RoJean Loucks. McMillen – lots of people talking about the project and the recent “Harpening” concert was well attended. Benson – Loucks is a wonderful example: starting as a hobbyist developing into her own playing and the creation of the harp group. Great writing of grant and would be a great mentor.

The Big Ideas Update

Smith, Graham, Highkin and Burlew had a recent conference call with Diane Mataraza. Surveys have been distributed in Wal-Mart and on-line. Cash incentives up to \$200, plus Wal-Mart gift certificates (including some donated by Loersch). Public Library has a dedicated computer for people to take the public opinions surveys. Three surveys – organizations, artists and public opinion. Recap of Diane’s visit: total (February, March and May) of over 65 forums, with contact with almost 800 people from all walks of life.

Coming back in August on her own dime. Draft will be presented in September.

CA&D Update

Highkin – City Clerk taking Letters of Interest for inclusion on the CA&D Committee. Hope to constitute the Committee for examination of the City’s 5-Year CIP by late July.

Other Business

Brett Halderman – Smith: Brett Halderman has been an excellent student liaison volunteer.

Smith presented him with the City’s acknowledgement plaque.

Highkin – The Mother’s Day Celebration, collaboration with Human Relations Commission and Hispanic Heritage Committee, drew 200 people to Centennial Park. Banda music appreciated; gave out paletas (Mexican popsicles), bottled water and flowers. Great support was received from Greater Community Salina Foundation.

Highkin – *Arts & Economic Prosperity III* – Americans for the Arts has sent preliminary report. Working with the Cultural Roundtable to roll out the report in early June and will have detailed report at next Commission meeting.

Festival Commissioner Duty Sign-Up was distributed for volunteering and delivery of prints.

Loersch motioned to adjourn the meeting and Parr seconded. Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

/kab